



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

MS Teams virtual call

Present: Alaina Dowling, Angela Hanes, Brianne Czypyha, Ian Bruce, Brian Koval, Dorothy Chambers, George and Vicki Blogg, Jaclyn Barrs, Katie Turner, Sara Stallard, Thomas Munson, Mick Collins, Yogi Carolsfeld, Jack Meredith, Rick Daykin, John Mullane, Jen Tyler, Lindsey McCrank

Guests: Jameson Clarke, Ashley Neilson, Caitlin Bergman (GWAS summer students)
Lori Beaulieu, Errol Nordstrom, Katie Hamilton and Geoff Huber (BC Transit HandyDART project)

DECISIONS			
Next Meeting: September 16, 2020			
	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE
1	Angela will provide the MNAI Natural Assets grant link	Angela Hanes	ASAP
2	Jaclyn will provide forage fish guidance documents to the group	Jaclyn Barrs	September meeting
3	Lindsey will provide GWI with BC Transit's HandyDART contact information and details about a site visit.	Lindsey McCrank	ASAP

INFORMATION

Partner Updates

Alaina Dowling, GWAS

- GWAS has 3 summer students working throughout the summer (Jameson Clarke, Biologist, Ashley Neilson, Restoration Technician, Caitlin Bergman, Interpreter).
- The students are working on a pollinator meadow restoration project, biodiversity survey, pollinator survey, water and sediment testing, and re-opening the Nature House with COVID-19 protocols.

Angela Hanes, View Royal Advisory Committee

- DFO is investigating contamination beyond waterways and will be looking at the HandyDART site.
- MNAI Natural Assets program has grant money available to quantify natural assets, and Angela will circulate the link.

Action: Angela will provide the MNAI Natural Assets grant link.

Brianne Cзыpyha, City of Victoria

- Lots of development applications are coming in, and Brianne is pushing for green infrastructure wherever possible.
- Peter Pollen Park design review is underway, and Brianne is pushing for habitat opportunities.
- Songhees Park expansion is also moving forward.

Ian Bruce and Brian Koval, Peninsula Streams

- Millstream fishway is underway and will provide salmon access to 7 km of upstream habitat.
- Forage fish eggs survey is underway.
- Swan creek is receiving regular summer enhancement.
- Colquitz River restoration project will occur downstream of last year's project.

Dorothy Chambers

- Restoration in Cuthbert Holmes Park is ongoing, including more large woody debris and native plants in the estuary near Admirals.
- As part of the construction of a new daycare facility behind Pearkes Recreation Centre, the contractor removed a large number of trees in error, and a stop work order was issued.
- Quiet zone signage has been placed along the Colquitz estuary, in partnership with Saanich Parks, CWS, DFO, and ECCC, stating that no boats are allowed in the estuary.

George Blogg, PISCES

- PISCES has been working on invasive species removal

Jaclyn Barrs, WWF

- WWF has a new strategic plan with restructuring of teams and a new website.
- Forage fish guidance documents are now finalized. Jaclyn will provide these to the group.

Action: Jaclyn will provide forage fish guidance documents to the group.

Katie Turner, Saanich Parks

- Volunteer programs are running again, including Pulling Together programs in 42 different parks, with COVID-19 protocols in place.

Sara Stallard, SIASS

- CRD is doing sediment sampling on Gorge creek and there could be potential for collaboration. Please contact Sara if interested.

- Sara is interested in ways to promote natural shoreline vegetation on private property and would like to encourage homeowners with a carrot approach. She will contact Kitty Lloyd who has been involved in this in the past. Please contact Sara if you have interest/experience in this topic.
- Sara is finding lots of discharges/spills when sampling and feels that people need better access to emergency numbers for spill reporting.

Thomas Munson, District of Saanich

- “Resilient Saanich” is a new environmental policy framework that includes a proposed Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. A technical committee of 10-11 people is being formed, and Thomas will be acting as the District of Saanich staff representative.

Mick Collins, Victoria Golden Rods and Reels/PICI

- Portage Inlet Cutthroat Initiative was profiled in the Waterbucket newsletter, written by a WFT member.
- A report on the flow patterns of Colquitz and Craigflower Creeks is under review by CRD and Provincial Parks and has been circulated to 30 people.

Yogi Carolsfeld, World Fisheries Trust

- The known distribution of Olympia oysters has been extended towards the Empress Hotel.
- The herring monitoring project is slightly delayed but early results suggest the harbour may be an important nursery.
- Yogi is using an app for reporting spills around CRD.

Jack Meredith, Gorge Swim Fest Society

- Open water swim enthusiasts are planning to hold open water swim races in the Gorge next summer.
- GVHA is providing a dock for the summer, hopefully by the end of July.

Rick Daykin, Township of Esquimalt

- Gorge Park Pavilion tender closes on July 17, 2020.
- Rick is looking for feedback on how to spend money to improve the Gorge Creek Estuary.

John Mullane, Vic West Community Association

- No update.

CRD Harbours Program Update:

Lindsey McCrank

- Lindsey will be reaching out to GWI members over the coming months to review the GWI Terms of Reference. She wants to hear from members about meeting format, frequency, timing, and focus of the GWI.

Jen Tyler

- Imagery for a high-resolution, low tide orthophoto planned to be flown during the July low tide window. The imagery will be used for the update of the Harbours Ecological Inventory. The RFP for the updated inventory is planned to be issued in the fall.
- Working on an RFP for a land cover classification project using 2019 orthophoto imagery.

Presentation: BC Transit HandyDART Facility Update:

Presenters: Lori Beaulieu, Errol Nordstrom, Katie Hamilton and Geoff Huber

- BC Transit staff provided a presentation about the HandyDART facility that is planned for an area adjacent to Craigflower Creek and invited questions from the committee.

Key discussion points:

- BC Transit received approximately 360 responses through the first phase of the public engagement process.
- BC Transit welcomes opportunities for partnership grant projects (stream keepers, First Nations).
- BC Transit is seeking feedback from GWI members about specific mitigation measures that could be taken to protect the creek and input on baseline data collection. Feedback can be sent directly to staff or at an upcoming site visits.

Action: Lindsey will provide GWI with BC Transit's contact information and details about a site visit.

GWI members voiced specific concerns related to:

- Flooding potential of the site (should plan for 200 year flood).
- Small site footprint will constrain storm water management design and could stress the creek.
- How will contractors stay accountable? What is the penalty for environmental damage?
- Construction monitors should be independent from the construction company to avoid a conflict of interest.
- Baseline data for the creek pre-construction would help with monitoring over time.
- The project timeline should allow for an opportunity for environmental reports to be reviewed by the public.
- The GWI committee would like to receive a copy of the RAR report (currently being completed by Stantec).

Adjournment: 9:00 pm